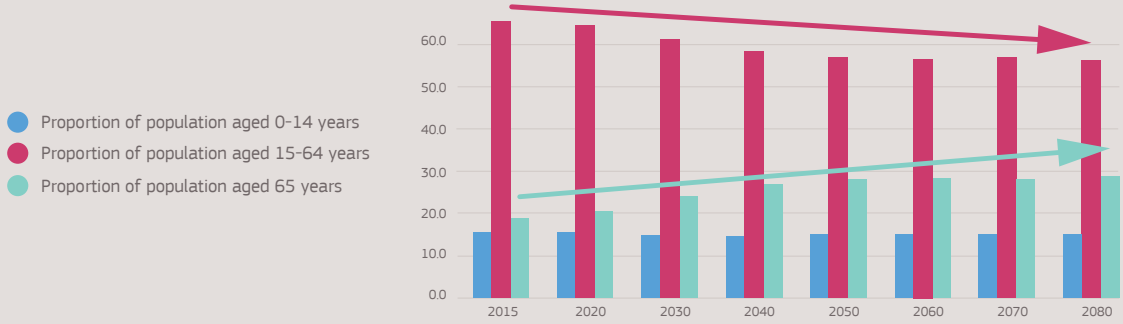
European Commission

Legal Migration

The case for legal migration

The EU faces a series of long-term economic challenges. Its population is ageing, but its economy is increasingly dependent on highly-skilled jobs. Migration will increasingly be an important way to provide the EU economy with the talent it will need for sustainable growth.

Demographic projections of EU working age population

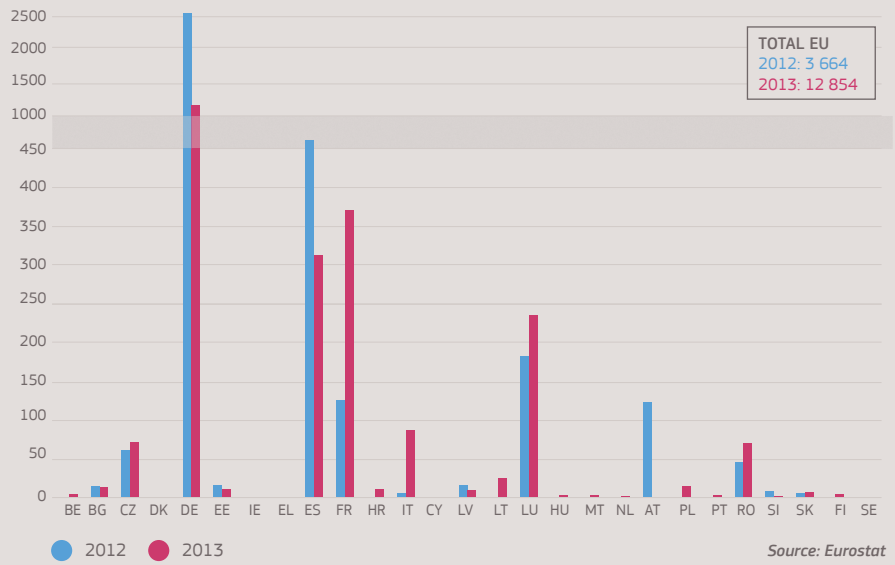


source: Eurostat

How can migrants enter the EU legally?

The EU Blue Card Directive
Seasonal Workers Directive
Intra-corporate Transferees Directive
Single Permit Directive

Blue Cards issued in EU Member States



Source: Eurostat

Proposed actions by European Commission

Modernisation and overhaul of the Blue Card scheme to attract highly qualified third-country nationals

Creation of a platform for dialogue with Member States, businesses, trade unions and other social partners on economic migration, to understand the skill gaps in the labour market and exchange best practices.

Linking migration and development policy more strongly through mobility partnerships and by mainstreaming migration issues into development policies.

Re-prioritising funding for integration policies through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

Ensuring cheaper, faster and safer remittance transfers to countries of origin, by adoption of the EU Payment Services Directive II, and with support of the Development Cooperation Instrument.